

RECOGNIZING THE 96TH ANNIVERSARY OF AZERBAIJAN'S REPUBLIC DAY

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Azerbaijan on its Republic Day. On May 28, 1918, Azerbaijan declared its independence from the Russian Empire—making it the first democracy in the Muslim world. Unfortunately, only a few short years later in 1920 Azerbaijan was invaded by the Russian Red Army and was subsequently incorporated into the Soviet Union. Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, Azerbaijan regained its independence in 1991.

Azerbaijan continues to be an important partner with the United States in counter-terrorism efforts and initiatives to bolster energy security with strategic allies. With its vast resources of oil and gas, Azerbaijan is a key component to help our strategic allies in NATO and other European countries diversify their energy resources.

Many of our strategic allies in Europe are heavily dependent upon natural gas from one source or from unstable regions. And the ongoing events in Ukraine are a stark reminder that the United States must enhance our strategic partnerships with allies in Europe and Eurasia. That is why we must continue to support initiatives such as the Southern Gas Corridor which will route natural gas from Azerbaijan to Europe.

The Caspian Sea region holds significant energy resources and proven natural gas reserves. In particular, the Shah Deniz field in Azerbaijan is one of the world's largest gas fields, with over 30 trillion cubic feet of recoverable gas. The Southern Gas Corridor will help our European allies diversify their energy resources by providing an alternative and reliable source of natural gas. This will increase global energy supplies and create a more competitive natural gas market, helping to bolster energy security and help improve geopolitical stability in the region.

Successive U.S. administrations have supported the development of energy resources in the Caspian Sea region, including earlier oil and gas pipelines from Azerbaijan to neighboring nations, as well as developing stronger trade relationships and international partnerships with the countries of the South Caucasus and Central Asia.

In fact, on April 2, 2014 Secretary of State John Kerry, in a joint statement with European energy leaders at a meeting of the EU-US Energy Council, stated "The Council reaffirmed the importance of the Southern Gas Corridor to bring gas to Europe, urged for timely construction of a dedicated, scalable pipeline which keeps the options open for additional supplies, and agreed to explore investments to strengthen gas supplies to Central and Southeast Europe."

The Southern Gas Corridor is an important starting point to provide Europe with an alternative and reliable source of energy. Establishment of the pipeline lays the foundation for opportunities for greater amounts of natural gas development and further pipeline infrastructure to bring additional energy resources to Europe.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating Azerbaijan on the 96th anniversary of its Republic Day.

HONORING WILLIAM H. COOPER

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague Ranking Member LEVIN to honor William H. Cooper, Specialist in International Trade and Finance in the Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division of the Congressional Research Service (CRS). Bill will retire at the end of June after 41 years of distinguished government service, including 32 years of invaluable analytical work for Congress and the Ways and Means Committee as a leading expert on U.S. trade policy and international economics.

Bill's authoritative, objective, and non-partisan support for Congress on international trade and economic issues is exemplified in his many reports, confidential memoranda, and consultative briefings. Over the span of three decades, his work for Congress has addressed nearly every major trade bill and U.S. trade law, as well as U.S. trade relations and negotiations with key U.S. trading partners and at the World Trade Organization. His deep expertise and knowledge have been vital to Congress and the Committee in particular in fulfilling its constitutional role on international trade.

I especially want to thank Bill for his substantial support on the U.S.-South Korea Free Trade Agreement and Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations; the international negotiations trade in services; U.S. trade and economic relations with South Korea, Japan, Russia, and Europe; the WTO global trading system; and Trade Promotion Authority. Bill's invaluable analytical contributions, intellectual leadership, and institutional understanding of these and other vital policy issues before Congress over these past 32 years will leave an invaluable legacy.

Bill represents CRS at its finest in serving Congress. I wish him the very best in his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO MR. WILLIAM H.
"DOC" LONG

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. William H. "Doc" Long of Oak Ridge, North Carolina.

Doc Long, a veteran who served under the command of General Patton in World War II, has for the last three years been a tireless promoter of the Carolina Field of Honor Memorial in Triad Park in Kernersville, North Carolina.

Ground was broken for this memorial in November of last year, and the project is now complete. I will have the privilege of attending the unveiling of this important monument on Saturday.

Mr. Speaker, it's our responsibility to ensure that our military remains strong and our veterans receive the care and benefits they have earned, but we should always take time to recognize those individuals in our communities who tirelessly work to ensure the sacrifices made on behalf of our nation are not forgotten. Doc Long is one such individual, I look forward to seeing him in Kernersville Saturday, and it's a privilege to recognize him in this House today.

CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION
FOR UNITED STATES ARMY COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR MARTIN R. BARRERAS

HON. RON BARBER

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor United States Army Command Sergeant Major Martin R. Barreras, who died on May 12, 2014 from wounds he suffered on May 6 when enemy forces attacked his unit with small arms fire in Harat Province, Afghanistan. He leaves behind his wife, Melinda; mother, Gloria; father, Ray; brothers Dave and Andy; three children, Calvin, Victoria and Amice; three grandchildren; and numerous friends.

Born in New Mexico, Command Sergeant Major Barreras spent most of his childhood in Tucson, Arizona. He attended Sunnyside High School before joining the military. In the last assignment of his long military career, he was assigned as the highest-ranking enlisted member of the 2nd Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team based in Fort Bliss, Texas.

Command Sergeant Major Barreras was on his sixth deployment to Afghanistan, after serving 29 honorable years defending our country in both the Army and Marine Corps.

Nicknamed "Gunny" from his time in the Marines, Command Sergeant Major Barreras was a great soldier. Over his career he earned 50 awards and distinctions including a Bronze Star with valor and two Purple Hearts. However, his illustrious career depicted through his medals will not be the only thing to highlight his service to our country. The men and women he led and fought with will always remember his selflessness and war-fighting spirit that will undoubtedly be passed on for generations to come.

As an Army Ranger, he helped rescue former prisoner of war Jessica Lynch from an Iraqi hospital in 2003. Command Sergeant Major Barreras was the leader of the Army battalion that conducted the successful rescue of Lynch. He personally handed Lynch to another soldier to transfer her to the helicopter that evacuated her from the area. Without any hesitation, he then led the fight against multiple attacks in order to retrieve all nine bodies of the other U.S. soldiers missing in action.

We remember Command Sergeant Major Barreras and offer our deepest condolences and sincerest prayers to his family. I am heart-sick for their loss and my words cannot offer adequate consolation.

Everyone in our great country owes Command Sergeant Major Barreras and his family a debt of gratitude for his selfless sacrifice and courage. It is vital that we keep our men and